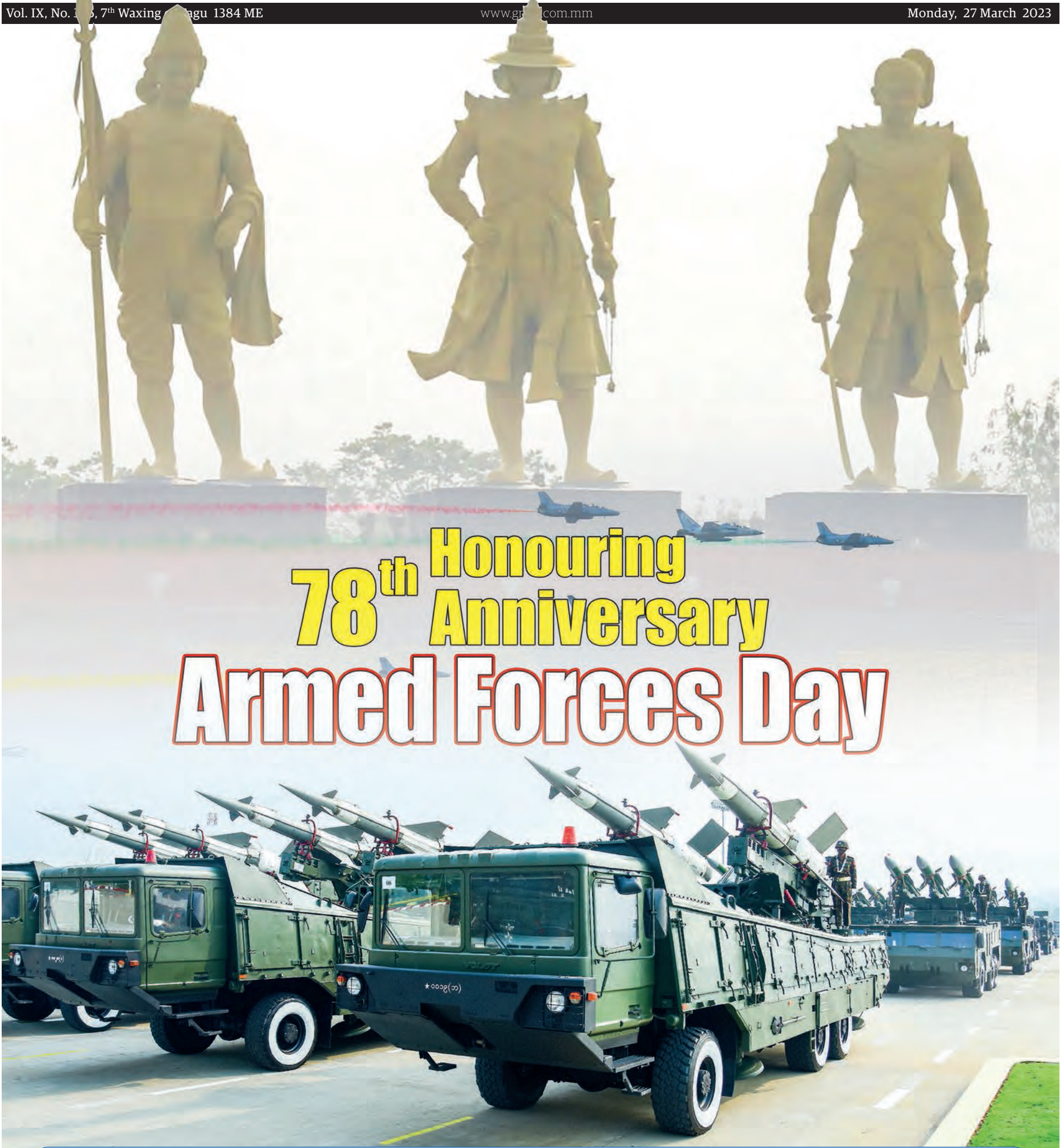


THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Five-Point Road Map

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.
4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Objectives of 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

- To serve primary duties of Tatmadaw for successfully safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, and protecting the State Constitution and shielding the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system
- To emphasize agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible for the restoration of the durable and perpetual peace across the nation as ceasing of armed conflicts is an actual requirement for realizing the multiparty democratic system
- To safeguard the national interest of the State, lives and property of people, and to put a strenuous effort on respective corners in times of natural disasters.
- To provide the necessary assistance by Tatmadaw for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election upon completion of undertakings in accord with the provisions of the state of emergency for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Statements issued regarding brutal attacks of KKO (Split) group, so-called PDF terrorists on Myawady Trade Zone with heavy weapons and small arms

IT was known that as KKO (Split) and so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH opened fire on the Myawady trade zone with heavy weapons and small arms in Kayin State on 25 March, with the aim of disrupting the stability and peace in the Myawady Township of Kayin State, delaying the flow of commodities and causing panic among the people.

In the incident, the building of the trade zone and an X-ray machine were damaged, and some security personnel were injured and an innocent citizen, and an employee were killed.

Regarding the incident, the Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central), the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), the Myanmar Press Council, the Myanmar Writers' Association, the Myanmar Music Association (Central) and the Myanmar Comedians' Association issued statements, saying that such acts of violence were unacceptable and strongly condemn them. — MNA

Statement on Strong Objection of Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central)

6th Waxing of Tagu 1384 ME
26 March 2023

1. It was known that so-called PDF terrorists, and KNU's KKO (Split) nominal terrorist group attacked the trade zone in Myawady with heavy weapons and small arms on the morning of 25 March, causing deaths of three security forces, one Customs staff and one civilian and burning state-owned buildings and property.
2. The Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central) strongly condemns this act, which is not only destroying the government's efforts to stabilize the national economy and disrupting the development of Kayin State, but also an act aimed at destroying the socio-economic life of the local people who depend on the trade zone and committing an inhumane war crime.

Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA
(Central)

Statement of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

6th Waxing of Tagu 1384 ME
26 March 2023

1. KNU (split) KKO nominal terrorist group and so-called PDF terrorist group attacked the trade zone in Myawady of Kayin State with heavy weapons and small arms at about 6.30 am on 25 March.
2. It is heartbreaking to know that a departmental staff and a local resident were killed and some security personnel were injured and killed due to the inhumane shooting of the terrorists.
3. Terrorists brutally shot and killed security personnel, civil servants and civilians, inhumanely burned and demolished and destroyed the local people's job opportunities and socio-economic life. It is not only a loss of national funds but committing war crime by armed attacks on the public and these acts were strongly condemned.

Executive Committee
Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

Statement 2/2023 of Myanmar Press Council

26 March 2023, Sunday

1. So-called PDF terrorists attacked the trade zone in Myawady with heavy weapons and small arms at about 6.30 am on 25 March.
2. It was sorrowful to hear that in the incident of inhumane attacks by those terrorists, one departmental employee and one innocent local civilian were killed and some security personnel were seriously injured and killed.
3. It is clear that the terrorist's irrational act of firing and destroying the trade zone that is not related to the military is intended to destroy local peace and stability, to delay the flow of goods and to cause a crisis for the people. Thus, the Myanmar Press Council has issued a statement that it is absolutely unacceptable and strongly condemns any terrorist organization that has committed such terrorist acts.

Myanmar Press Council

Statement of Myanmar Writers' Association

26 March 2023

1. KKO (Split) and terrorist groups under NUG and CRPH opened fire on the Myawady trade zone with heavy weapons and small arms on 25 March with the aim of disrupting the stability and peace in the Myawady Township of Kayin State, delaying the flow of commodities and causing panic among the people. In the incident, the building of the trade zone and an X-ray machine were damaged, and an innocent citizen, an employee and some security personnel were injured and killed.
2. We hereby announce that the intentional terrorist attacks by these terrorist groups to areas unrelated to the military are a war crime and are strongly condemned.

Myanmar Writers' Association

Statement of Myanmar Music Association (Central)

26 March 2023

THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) is deeply saddened to hear that as KKO (Split) and so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH opened fire on the Myawady trade zone with heavy weapons and small arms in Kayin State at 6.30 pm on 25 March, a departmental staff and a local resident were killed, some security personnel were injured and killed, and the trade zone building and an X-Ray machine were destroyed.

The Myanmar Music Association (Central) strongly condemns PDF and terrorist groups, as this intentional terrorist attack to non-military areas is a war crime under the Geneva Conventions and international law.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Comedians' Association

26 March 2023

KKO (Split) and terrorist groups under NUG and CRPH opened fire on the Myawady trade zone with heavy weapons and small arms on 25 March with the aim of disrupting the stability and peace in Myawady Township of Kayin State, delaying the flow of commodities and causing panic among the people. In the incident, the building of the trade zone and an X-ray machine were damaged, and an innocent civilian, an employee and some security personnel were injured and killed.

We hereby announce that the intentional terrorist attacks by these terrorist groups to areas unrelated to the military are a war crime and are strongly condemned.

Myanmar Comedians' Association

Building of a Union system is the most reliable system for our country

THROUGH historical experience, it is not enough to foster a multiparty democratic system alone in our nation-building, and it can be seen that the building of a Union system in the oneness of opportunity through a peaceful co-existence of multi-ethnicity is the most reliable system for our country.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the Passing Out Parade of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy on 2 December 2022)

SAC Chairman C-in-C of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla greet retired senior military officers, wives who will attend 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade

RETIRED senior military officers and their wives will attend the 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade to be held on 27 March 2023 and they now stay at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla greeted those retired senior military officers and their wives yesterday evening.

The Senior General and wife greeted the senior military



aw generations to generations, and fulfilling the basic needs of Tatmadaw members and families. The retired senior military officers expressed that they took pride in grasping the chance to attend the Armed Forces Day parade; they recognized the Senior General for his utmost efforts for serving the State responsibilities in all aspects and gave words of advice.—MNA/TTA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla cordially greet retired senior military officers and wives on 26 March.



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla cordially greet retired senior military officers and wives in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 March.

officers and their wives in individuals, asked about health conditions and social requirements and attended to the needs.

During the greeting them, the Senior General discussed political progress of Myanmar, strengthening the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system, harmonious efforts in joining hands among the government, the Tatmadaw and the people in building the Union based on democracy and federalism, encouragement for development of Myanmar in all aspects, perpetuity of language, religious and cultural heritages and emergence of human resources, endeavours for constantly serving the interests of the people and the State, preserving the fine traditions of the Tatmad-



New Kamyawkin Bridge on Dawei-Kamyawkin-Launglon road commissioned into service



An aerial view of already-opened Kamyawkin Bridge.



SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe strolls along newly-opened Kamyawkin Bridge on 26 March.

THE new Kamyawkin Bridge, built by Construciton Task Force-4 of the Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction from 16 February 2021 to 15 March 2023 was commissioned into service on Dawei-Kamyawkin-Launglon road in Dawei yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the SAC Secretary said that smooth and swift transport plays a key role in development of a region. With the aim of ensuring secure and smooth transport of commodities in Taninthayi Region, improving socio-economic life of the local people and developing tourism sector, Phayagyi-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road (ASEAN Highway-112) was built as the 24 feet wide two-lane AC road linking Yangon Region, Bago Region and Mon State.

Moreover, he added that Lenyar-Yadanabon road and Dawei-Myitta-Htikhee road involved in the ASEAN highway directly connected with Thailand and the Phayagyi-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road is being



SAC members cut ribbon to open Kamyawkin Bridge on 26 March.

upgraded as the concrete and asphalt road. As a result, the facility can contribute to Greater Mekong Sub-region economic corridors so as to ensure smooth and swift flow of commodities, create job opportunities and contribute to regional development.

He continued to say that

the Dawei special economic zone to be implemented in Taninthayi Region will contact Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam through shipping, railway and motor road. As it is an area of producing natural gas to earn income for the State, it will be crucial for development undertakings. In con-

clusion, the Secretary urged local people to participate in maintenance and protection of the bridge for its long term existence.

Chief Minister U Myat Ko explained regional development matters whereas Deputy Minister U Win Pe clarified construction of the bridge. SAC

members Khun San Lwin and U Yan Kyaw, Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Commander Maj-Gen Saw Than Hlaing and Deputy Minister U Win Pe cut the ribbon to open the bridge.

The Secretary pressed the button to open the stone plaque of the bridge and the guests strolled along the bridge.

Kamyawkin Bridge is located on Dawei-Kamyawkin-Maungmakan Road in Dawei District of Taninthayi Region, linking Dawei on the east bank and Launglon on the west.

The bridge was built of RC Girder, PC Girder, Steel Arch Truss and RC Decking Slab. The facility is 1,050 feet long with a 24-foot motorway flanked by a five-foot pedestrian on either side. Its water clearance is 164 feet wide and 16 feet high. The bridge withstands AASHTOHL-93.

Old two-lane RC Kamyawkin bridge was built in 1975. The new one which is perellev with the old one was built by Construction Task Force-4 of the Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Intellectual Property Department to open branches in Yangon, Mandalay

THE Intellectual Property Department will open its branches in Yangon and Mandalay, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The branches will be opened next financial year to admit applications for those who wish to register trademarks themselves.

Currently, IP applications are being processed at the head office of the IP Department in Nay Pyi Taw. Arrangements are

being made to open a counter at the Trade Department on Strand Road in Pabedan Township and one more counter in Mandalay in order to receive personally submitted patent applications.

Notification No 82/2023 was issued on 10 March 2023 that Myanmar's Trademark Law 2023 will take effect from 1 April.

The law was enacted as the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 3 in 2019. — TWA/KZW



Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo inspects the site for opening Yangon Region office of IP Department on 20 January 2023.

Independence Day, National Day of Bangladesh celebrated in Yangon



The documentary group photo of the National Day celebration of Bangladesh on 26 March.

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut, diplomats from foreign embassies in Yangon, representatives of UN agencies and invitees attended ceremonies of the People's Republic of Bangladesh's Independence Day and National Day held at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

First, Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury and officials warmly welcomed the dignitaries.

Next, the ceremony began with the National Anthems of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Then, the Yangon Region chief minister, the deputy minister for MoFA and the ambassador cut a cake to mark Independence Day and National Day ceremonies of Bangladesh after the Bangladeshi ambassador extended greetings.

And then, the ambassador and his wife had documentary photo taken together with the attendees and hosted a dinner to the guests. — MNA/KZL

Yangon Stock Exchange marks 7th anniversary celebration

THE 7th anniversary of Yangon Stock Exchange took place on 25 March at Parkroyal Yangon Hotel in Yangon.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Chairman of Supervisory Commission for Securities Exchange Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and officials related to the securities exchange attended the event.

At the ceremony, the deputy minister said that the Yangon Stock Exchange, established as a joint venture between the Myanma Economic

Bank, Japan's Daiwa Research Group and the Japan Stock Exchange Group, launched its operations on 9 December 2015. It has been 7 years since FMI, the first listed company, started receiving and trading shares on 25 March 2016, he added.

The government lists the relaxation of Corporate Income Tax for companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange is enacted every year when the Union Tax Law is promulgated yearly for contributing to competitiveness of these listed companies in the market.

He continued that the listed companies need to prop-

erly conduct their business in accordance with existing laws, and on the other hand, they need to adhere to good corporate governance systems and transparent disclosure systems.

Managing Director of Yangon Stock Exchange U Win Naing Oo, UMFCCI President U Aye Win, and Chairman of the Myanmar Certified Public Accountants Association U Wan Tin delivered speeches.

Next, a discussion on the topic of Future Growth with Financing Options in Myanmar was held at the event.—MNA/KZL



Chairman of Supervisory Commission for Securities Exchange Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win speaking at 7th anniversary of YSX on 25 March.

KKO (Split) group and so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH launch fire on Myawady Trade Zone with heavy weapons and small arms, leaving one departmental staff, one resident dead



THE KKO (Split) group and so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH launched attacks on the Myawady Trade Zone on 25 March, aiming to destroy the peace and tranquility in Myawady Township, Kayin State, to delay the flow of commodities and to scare the residents. The security forces counterattacked in response with restraint and increased the security.

KKO (Split) group and so-called PDF terrorists started launching fires on the Myawady Trade Zone with heavy weapons and small arms from about 200 meters west of the trade zone at about 6:30 am on 25 March. The security forces taking security measures around the area returned fire, and the terrorists retreated and fled to the south. Because of the irrational attack by terrorists, one departmental employee and one local resident were killed, some security personnel were injured, and the trade zone building and an X-ray machine were destroyed by fire.

According to the Geneva Conventions and international laws, the intentional terrorist attack on non-military areas is a war crime, and the security forces will continue to conduct necessary responses. — MNA

Building of Myawady trade zone attacked by KKO (split) and PDF terrorists on 25 March.

Illegal teak, cosmetics, electronic accessories, computer accessories, vehicle accessories, vehicles seized

A combined team, under the supervision of Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized more than 17 tonnes of illegal timber estimated at K556,927 from Bogale and Pathein townships on 21 and 22 March and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, a combined team nabbed 3.6 tonnes of illegal teak timber estimated value of K2.38 million near milepost 3/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and a Mitsubishi Canter Truck estimated at K23 million, totalling estimated value over K25 million and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Furthermore, Customs mobile teams carried out inspection at Htee Tan Port container checkpoint and they seized five



Illegal sawn timbers and illegally imported goods seized by combined teams of Illegal Trade Eradication Task Forces from 21 to 24 March.

kinds of goods including 240 Nova Hair Dryers estimated at K5.2 million, and they also nabbed 10 kinds of goods including 400 bottles of Collagen Lifting Serum and IAIA 350W Solar Panels from four containers estimated at K79.45 million and five kinds of goods including one Solar Air-conditioner, 180,000 computer compact discs and other five goods estimated at K13.54 million at Asia World Container Checkpoint. Then, officials seized 11 kinds of goods including 2,500 bottles of EP664 INKJET ink and 783 air filters, that are not declared in Import Declaration estimated value of K174.04 million. Totalling value K272,247,833 and the action were taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 11 arrests at an estimated value of K298,191,848 were made from 21 to 24 March, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee.—MNA/KZL

1 new case of COVID-19 reported on 23 March, total figure registers 634,073

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases registered **634,073** after **one** new case was reported on 26 March 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,495**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 26-3-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,978,833** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,846,110** people aged under 18 till 25 March 2023.

— GNLm

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be “for the people”, the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting “CRPH”, “NUG”, and “PDF” terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

SA launches new Singapore-Yangon-Singapore flight

THE Singapore Airlines started its maiden flight of Singapore-Yangon-Singapore route on 26 March by its new Boeing 737-8 aircraft.

The new Boeing 737-8 aircraft joined the Singapore Airlines, and the airlines stated that with the new aircraft upgrades, better and safer flights will be arranged.

The flight will arrive in Yan-

gon daily at 09:20 am and depart at 10:20 am via the Yangon International Airport.

The flight number SQ762/1 started shuttling with 106 passengers on arrival and 150 passengers for departure on 26 March, and passengers were welcomed with souvenirs by Singapore Airlines and Yangon International Airport. — TWA/CT



A new Boeing 737-8 aircraft of Singapore Airlines.

Entry of EVs stimulates transactions of vehicles under K50 million

AUTO enthusiasts are taking interest in the entry of electric vehicles-EV and motorcars valued under K50 million are being traded in the local automobile market, according to auto dealers.

Car dealer U Min Nyunt told the GNLm that the arrival of EVs shook the automobile market. Those who think EVs will come in at low prices sell out their reserved cars as well.

Automobiles worth over K100 million have a sluggish trade in the market and trade of those worth around and under K50 million is brisk, Ko Lin Lin, a car dealer, commented.

Doubts are rising among car buyers based on the facts that the weaknesses of EVs in travel distance and reliability in quality, compared to gasoline-powered vehicles.

The EV trend is driving sales of gasoline-powered cars to higher than normal. Most



Motorcars valued at over K20 million were put on sales on the social networking car market on 26 March.

buyers are more interested in long-term-use gasoline vehicles that can easily be refueled at any time and take highway trips.

EVs are priced above K70 million and not sure if they are enduring against weather. The imported EV cars are superior in terms of model, but due to the high price, those who want to buy them are weighing in mind.

In the domestic auto market, transactions are being made between K22 million and K40

million for a Honda Fit (2008) model, between K21 million and K29 million for a Toyota Vitz (2007, 08 and 09) model, between K18 million and K25 million for a Suzuki Swift (2011-12) model, between K18 million and K30 million for a Nissan March 2011 model, between K55 million and K80 million for a Mitsubishi Fuso Canter (2006-08) model and between K18 million and K30 million for a Suzuki Carry Truck (2018, 2019) model. — TWA/CT

Chilli pepper hoarders start business in time of low prices

AT the end of March in the chilli pepper market when the prices of various kinds of pepper decreased, the demand of chilli pepper hoarders and those who will export abroad increased.

At the end of 2022, the wholesale price of refrigerated bell pepper rose to K31,000 per viss. However, the stocks from delta region and Sinphyukyun area were set at K13,000 and K12,000 per viss respectively on 25 March 2023.

The wholesale price of Hmyarni and Panye long chilli peppers were just K11,200 and K11,500 per viss on 25 March. Long chilli pepper from Vietnam fetched the wholesale price of K14,000 per viss. Moehtaung chilli peppers from Pyawbwe and Yaye Maubin areas cost K11,000-K11,500 per viss and K10,000-K10,500 per viss respectively.

This year's new chilli pepper prices are one fold higher than last year's new



A photo shows chilli peppers kept in the sun.

pepper prices. Even though the price is one fold higher, most of chilli pepper hoarders earned double the profit of the purchasing price at the time of resale.

Although the price of long Moehatung chili peppers was

around K4,000/5,000 per viss at the beginning of 2022 and by mid-2022, they were sold at K15,000/20,000 per viss. Similarly, the purchase price of a viss of bell pepper was around at K8,000/9,000, but it fetched up to K31,000 when resold.

Nevertheless, chilli pepper hoarders started buying for storage, so new chilli pepper prices are less likely to fall further and will become the floor prices for this year's chilli pepper season. — TWA/CT

11 bus lines from Aung Mingala, Dagon Ayeya terminals to operate every day during Thingyan period

DURING the Thingyan period, 11 bus lines will operate from Aung Mingala and Dagon Ayeya highway bus terminals without any holidays according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

For the convenience of the public, 183 bus lines will be running until 10 April, during that period, 41 bus lines will stop. In addition, on 11 April 172 lines will run but 52 lines will stop on 11 April. On 12 April, 152 lines will run but 72 lines will take a break. On 13 April, 51 lines will run and 173 lines will stop, and on 14 April, five lines will run and 219 lines will suspend. Similarly, 99 of the 110 lines at the Dagon Ayeya highway bus terminal will be running on 13 April, and six bus lines will not take a break during the period.

Each bus line is instructed to keep three reserved buses each for convenience of passengers.— TWA/KZW

Clear disturbances and hindrances to the way of the nation

THE primary duty of the Tatmadaw is to prevent external danger which encroaches on the sovereignty of the State and safeguard the national interests of the State and its citizens. Armed forces in the international community are protecting relevant countries against external dangers while police forces are handling internal armed terror acts and conflicts. In Myanmar, the Tatmadaw on its part is discharging security duty and solving internal armed conflicts for the people together with Myanmar Police Force.

In retrospect, the Tatmadaw joining hands with the ethnic people took a key role in the independence struggle. So also, the Tatmadaw is a main pillar to safeguard the independence of the nation. Significantly, the Tatmadaw is serving the assigned duties in building a new democratic nation the people aspire to in addition to the State defence duty.

As such, everybody needs to discard wrong things, wrongdoings, inappropriate attitudes and concepts so as to modernize a peaceful and prosperous country by exercising the multiparty democratic system for granting all the people to enjoy the fruits of development. They have to analyze the interference of some countries in the internal affairs of the motherland. All the people need to adopt the concept to build the nation on a self-reliant basis. If so, the way to the future of the nation will be straightened without any disturbances and hindrances.

Tatmadaw. Everybody wishes to see the country be modernized, peaceful, stable and prosperous. Although their directions may be different, their focal points are the same as a single goal. Their ways may be different but their target is the same to build the Union based on democracy and federalism.

As such, everybody needs to discard wrong things, wrongdoings, inappropriate attitudes and concepts so as to modernize a peaceful and prosperous country by exercising the multiparty democratic system for granting all the people to enjoy the fruits of development. They have to analyze the interference of some countries in the internal affairs of the motherland. All the people need to adopt the concept to build the nation on a self-reliant basis. If so, the way to the future of the nation will be straightened without any disturbances and hindrances.

Managing China by the Numbers

By U AC

Do you ever wonder how the government of China manages over 1.3 billion people with varying needs and different educational levels? The answer lies in the numbers. Abacus was invented by China. Chinese people or Chinese friends that you know are typically very good at mathematics. Even in master’s or professional courses, it is worth noting that Chinese students excel in computational subjects such as accounting, finance or advanced math and did poorly in subjects where one has

to bluff your way through talking such as marketing, law or audit. After reading the Governance of China IV book by President Xi Jinping, it became more obvious that successful governance of a huge population lies in the numbers. Success means making everyone relatively prosperous and getting people out of absolute poverty. The numbers make it effortless for those at the lower ranks of the government hierarchy to comprehend what is needed to be done. These act as terms of reference to link back

to when faced with dilemmas or disputes, too.

The Apex by the Numbers

At the very top, we have 4 principles of the Communist Party (CPC) founding, a 5-sphere integrated plan for building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and a 4-pronged comprehensive strategy to achieve moderate prosperity in China in all aspects. Who said the Chinese do not like 4? The 4s do not end here. There are 4 consciousnesses to maintain political commitment, and 4

spheres of confidence to have in socialism with Chinese characteristics. We also have 4 socialist values that underpin the nation, 4 more values that underlie individual conduct and 4 principles in promoting common prosperity for all!

Disaster Management by the Numbers

Even for post-Covid economic and social development, there are 8 strategies to promote the well-being of the State. During the recovery period, we have to

stabilize the 6 fronts and guarantee the 6 priorities to the people.

The Numbers Relevance for the New China

For the new development stage, there are 6 priorities in creating new development dynamic, 13 new development philosophies and 3 approaches to implementing these development philosophies. Even the Chinese military got three steps on how to modernize. There are also 10 ways to implement a holistic approach to national security.

There are 5 specific ways for China to pursue high-quality development, 7 ways to develop the digital economy and 5 methods of resolving issues in the new development stage.

Numbers in the Soft Core

The numbers are not forgotten in the cultural, social and environmental arenas either. China has 6 principles of human rights, 11 socialist rules of law to provide sound legal guarantees, 4 ways to increase the cultural confidence of the nation, 5 expectations for

writers and artists to create prospects for literature and arts, 8 ways to build a strong public health system and 7 means to develop the social security system.

To create harmony between development and nature, the government stated 5 ways to balance the two. For carbon neutrality, there are 4 relationships to balance. The harmony between humanity and nature can be achieved by following 6 strategies.

Corruption itself is viewed with abhorrence and 5 reasons why it has to be that way are also

defined. To keep abreast of the developed world, China needs talent and how to develop talent has also been pointed out by the government in 8 ways.

Last but not the least, 7 malpractices committed by government officials have been stated as well as 8 rules for officials to improve their work performance.

I believe I am having 2 headaches now, just looking at these numbers!



COVID-era relocation trend may be fading despite work flexibility

FOUR years into the COVID-19 pandemic, more city dwellers, who entertained the idea of relocating to the countryside, may be giving it a second thought. The spread of remote work initially made moving to rural areas from densely populated areas like Tokyo a viable option, and the Japanese capital, with a population of roughly 14 million, did see more people moving out.

But the balance between those relocating to Tokyo and those leaving it widened again last year, accelerating the capital’s population growth and potentially boding ill for the Japanese government’s goal of equalizing population flows into and out of the metropolitan area by fiscal 2027.

“Living with COVID”

The change comes as people have become accustomed to “living with COVID” and the number of companies proactively encouraging remote work appears to have peaked. Changes are coming in various aspects of everyday life. After the legal classification of COVID-19 changes in early May, the disease will be treated the same as the seasonal flu, meaning that authorities will not restrict the movement of people or urge patients to stay in hospital or quarantine. Mask-wearing, though it

has never been mandatory, is now at the discretion of individuals.

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 has changed how people view relocating to rural areas. Some 25 percent of respondents in the Tokyo area expressed interest in December 2019, and the percentage rose to 34.2 percent in June 2022, according to the Cabinet Office.

“We are planning to open a restaurant in Ehime because we could enjoy a stress-free lifestyle,” said a man in his 30s in Tokyo who visited a recent event to promote relocation to the prefecture on the southwestern island of Shikoku.

Despite hopes for a reversal, recent data suggests the overconcentration of people in Tokyo and its vicinity poses a challenge, with around 30 percent of Japan’s population of 125 million living there.

Focus of their strategy

A growing number of regional municipalities are stepping up their campaigns to attract people from urban areas. But some have already shifted the focus of their strategy to boosting the appeal of rural areas as second-home destinations so people can avoid the hassles of complete relocation.

The government of Yamanashi Prefecture, just west of Tokyo, is targeting people who



People take part in an event by Ehime Prefecture to promote relocation on 18 February 2023, in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

desire a second home by offering incentives such as low-interest loans in collaboration with a regional bank. The prefecture is located at the foot of 3,776-meter Mt. Fuji, Japan’s highest mountain.

Surveys show young people tend to be more interested in moving to rural areas and those posi-

tive about leaving urban areas say they hope to cut living expenses, avoid long commutes and improve their work-life balance.

A nonprofit organization in Tokyo assisting people considering relocating to rural areas said it received over 52,000 inquiries last year, a record. But experts say

more people interested in making a move does not automatically mean the number of those actually doing so will increase.

A seven-fold increase

Tokyo saw some 38,000 more people moving in than those leaving the capital in 2022, a seven-fold

increase from the year before, driven largely by young people in a potential return of the pre-pandemic demographic trend. The gap came to nearly 100,000 for Tokyo and the three surrounding prefectures combined, according to government data.

Source : Kyodo



MYANMAR DAILY WEATHER REPORT
(ISSUED AT 7:00 PM SUNDAY 26 MARCH 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and East central Bengal of Bengal and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 27 March 2023: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin and Chin states. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 March 2023: A few cloud.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 March 2023: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 March 2023: Generally fair weather.

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SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

LatAm food crisis on the table at Ibero-American summit

ADDRESSING a food crisis affecting a fifth of Latin America's population featured high on the agenda of an Ibero-American leaders summit that started in the Dominican Republic on Friday.

According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, Latin America and the Caribbean is the region of the world where eating a basic healthy diet is most expensive — at \$3.89 per person per day in 2020, compared to \$3.19 in North America and Europe.

It is a price that 22.5 percent of the region's population cannot afford, according to the UN — more than 130 million people in 2020.

Heads of state and government from 14 of the 22 Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin America and Europe, were due to attend the two-day summit.

Spain's King Felipe VI and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa are among those gathered in San-



Latin America and the Caribbean is the region of the world where eating a basic healthy diet is most expensive. Farm workers prepare to sow seeds in Turen, Venezuela, on 11 May. **PHOTO: AFP**

to Domingo with the leaders of Chile, Uruguay, Honduras and others.

The surprise attendance of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro was announced by a master of ceremonies listing the arrival of leaders.

It is the first time Maduro has taken part in the summit since he came to power in 2013.

Since his re-election in 2018, his legitimacy has been questioned by several members of the forum, including Spain, Ecuador and Paraguay. — AFP

North Sea shell survey brings out volunteers

HUNDREDS of volunteers descended on the beaches of the North Sea coast this weekend to collect sea shells as a measure of the sea's biological diversity.

While there is a serious scientific purpose to the exercise, it is also a fun day out on the coast for Belgian, French and Dutch families with kids.

On Saturday, Natascha Perales and her children marked a wide spiral pattern on the sand in Middelkerke, in Flanders, and filled their plastic buckets with shells.

The harvests were taken to a sorting centre run by volunteers, to be counted and divided up by species.

"We found mussels, oysters, cockles, at least six different spe-



In total, around 38,000 shells were brought in, roughly as many as in last year's event. **PHOTO: AFP**

cies," 40-year-old Perales told AFP. "It's a great activity, despite the weather."

Braving stiff gusts of wind, the dozen participants kept the

Middelkerke collection point busy.

Laurence Virolee, 41, came with her three children. — AFP

Large asteroid to zoom between Earth and Moon

A large asteroid will safely zoom between Earth and the Moon on Saturday, a once-in-a-decade event that will be used as a training exercise for planetary defence efforts, according to the European Space Agency.

The asteroid, named 2023 DZ2, is estimated to be 40 to 70 metres (130 to 230 feet) wide, roughly the size of the Parthenon, and big enough to wipe out a large city if it hit our planet.

At 19:49 GMT on Saturday it will come within a third of the

distance from the Earth to the Moon, said Richard Moissl, the head of the ESA's planetary defence office.

Though that is "very close", there is nothing to worry about, he told AFP.

Small asteroids fly past every day, but one of this size coming so close to Earth only happens around once every 10 years, he added.

The asteroid will pass 175,000 kilometres (109,000 miles) from Earth at a speed

of 28,000 kilometres per hour (17,400 miles per hour). The moon is roughly 385,000 kilometres away.

An observatory in La Palma, one of Spain's Canary Islands, first spotted the asteroid on 27 February.

Last week, the UN-endorsed International Asteroid Warning Network decided it would take advantage of the close look, carrying out a "rapid characterisation" of 2023 DZ2, Moissl said. — AFP

At least 25 dead as tornado, storms rip through southern US

AT least 25 people were killed by devastating tornadoes that ripped across the southern US state of Mississippi, tearing off roofs, smashing cars and flattening entire neighborhoods, with the region readying for more severe weather Sunday.

The powerful weather system, accompanied by thunderstorms and driving rain, cut a path of more than 100 miles (60 kilometers) across the state late Friday, slamming several towns along the way.

Mississippi's emergency management agency put the death toll at 25, and said dozens more were injured. Four people reported missing "have been found," it added.

And in Alabama, one man died after being trapped when a trailer overturned in the severe weather; the sheriff's office in Morgan County

said on Twitter.

In Rolling Fork, home to fewer than 2,000 people, an entire row of houses and buildings was demolished, leaving only scattered debris. Cars were overturned, fences ripped up and trees uprooted.

Some 4,800 customers were without power in Mississippi, and nearly 11,000 homes and businesses remained in the dark in neighboring Alabama, monitor poweroutage.us reported.

Mississippi was meanwhile girding for more turbulent weather Sunday, including damaging winds and hail, with the state's emergency management agency warning that "tornadoes cannot be ruled out."

Patricia Perkins, who works at a hardware store in Rolling Fork, told AFP that "most everything is wiped away." — AFP



The devastation caused by a powerful tornado that hit Mississippi, tearing off roofs, smashing cars and flattening entire towns. **PHOTO: LLOYD BRIDGES/ EUROVISION NEWS WIRE/ AFP**

US state to require parental consent for social media

UTAH on Thursday became the first US state to require social media sites to get parental consent for accounts used by under-18s, placing the burden on platforms like Instagram and TikTok to verify the age of their users.

The law, which takes effect March 2024, was brought in response to fears over growing youth addiction to social media, and to security risks such as on-line bullying, exploitation, and collection of children's personal data.

But it has prompted warnings from tech firms and civil



A group of teens check their smartphones outside the Natural History Museum in Washington on 8 April 2015. **PHOTO: NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP/FILE**

liberties groups that it could curtail access to online resources for marginalized teens, and have far-reaching implications for free speech.

"We're no longer willing to let social media companies continue to harm the mental health of our youth," tweeted Spencer Cox, governor of the western US state, who signed two related bills at a ceremony Thursday.

The bills also require social media firms to grant parents full access to their children's accounts, and to create a default

"curfew" blocking overnight access to children's accounts.

They set out fines for social media companies if they target users under 18 with "addictive algorithms," and make it easier for parents to sue social media companies for financial, physical or emotional harm.

"We hope that this is just the first step in many bills that we'll see across the nation, and hopefully taken on by the federal government," said state representative Jordan Teuscher, who co-sponsored the bill. —AFP

Germany simplifies gender change procedure



A participant holds a sign saying "Man, woman, human" at a Christopher Street parade in Hamburg on 1 August 2020. **PHOTO: MORRIS MAC MATZEN/AFP/FILE**

GERMANY'S government has agreed to simplify the administrative procedure for people wanting to change gender, a move long demanded by the LGBTQ community, a spokesman for the ruling party said

Saturday.

"As a parliamentary group of the (ruling) SPD, we expressly welcome the fact that the law on self-determination is finally moving forward," Jan Plobner, spokesman for the Social Demo-

crat party on issues concerning transgender people in the Bundestag, told AFP.

Under the agreement, which was revealed by the Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily, transgender, intersex and non-binary people will in future have only to self-declare if they wish to change their first name or gender notation in the civil registry.

The procedure had been governed by a law dating from the 1980s that considered trans issues mental illness.

Those wanting to change their gender have been obliged to submit two psychological evaluations with a court ultimately taking the decision. —AFP

Israeli sociologist wants societal rethink on ideals of motherhood

AN Israeli sociologist says there are significant downsides when society limits women to certain roles or expectations, particularly if their aversion to having children is not respected, a theme tackled in her taboo-shattering book, "Regretting Motherhood."

"We must have the opportunity to decide whatever we want about our lives. There is no one certain way to be a woman. There is no one certain way to be a feminist," Orna Donath said in a recent interview with Kyodo News.

Donath said people must acknowledge the potential of "a spectrum of feminine identities," and also urged them

to be more willing to listen to women who are unhappy about being a mother.

Her book, first published in Germany in 2016 and then in other countries including Japan in March 2022, details how 23 Jewish-Israeli women of different ages and financial statuses say they would not have gone down the path of motherhood if they had their time again.

"There is a universal expectation for women to become mothers," Donath said in the late February interview. "It seems still in 2023 that this is the main essence of women's lives and they need to do their job." — Kyodo

Therapy dogs taking anxiety out of legal system for abused kids

THERAPY dogs have been used in Japan for the past three years to ease anxiety felt by child sexual abuse victims and others as they are interviewed about their harrowing experiences, with the animals providing solace and security while the children are caught up in the legal system.

In Tokyo, Kanagawa and Aichi prefectures, dogs have been tasked with helping in more than 100 cases and are now considered a valuable resource for their ability to alleviate stress on children who might have to give difficult testimony to prosecutors

and child guidance center staff.

Despite such positive returns, a lack of financial support and handlers is preventing the service from expanding.

Public prosecutors, police and guidance center staff work together with Tsunagg, a non-profit organization based in the city of Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, which provides dogs on request from authorities who want them for the long-term support they provide.

In coordination with the Japan Service Dog Association and the Japanese Animal Hospital

Association, two groups that supply dog handlers, the animals in most cases are sent to welfare centers, hospitals and other facilities where children are being cared for. According to Tsunagg, abused children often shut down or become emotionally unstable in stressful situations. But there have been cases in which they are helped to relax through interactions with dogs, making them more receptive to discussing their experiences.

Therapy dogs "smooth over the conversations with the kids," one questioner said.

In the United States, where the concept of using dogs as therapeutic aids originated, having the animals present during interviews became an option after a 1989 case that dealt with the sexual abuse of a 4-year-old girl. At present, there are some 300 therapy dogs dedicated to the task in the country. — Kyodo



Koto Mizukami, director of the Japan Service Dog Association's training department, accompanies a therapy dog in Nagakute, Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, in February 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ECONOMY WORLD

Argentina foreign currency debt near default after downgrade: Fitch

FITCH Ratings downgraded Argentina's foreign currency debt on Friday by two notches to leave it hovering one level above default.

The debt downgrade from CCC- to C suggests that the ratings agency believes a default is "imminent," and comes shortly after an Argentinian government decree forcing domestic public sector entities to swap their foreign currency-denominated debt for debt denominated in the domestic currency, the peso.

Fitch said Argentina would be downgraded further

still to Restricted Default once the exchanges have been carried out.

In its explanation as to what constitutes a default event it pointed to "a unilateral exchange... initiated by the sovereign on a public debt security" and "a forced redenomination of sovereign debt into a different currency."

Argentina had made the decision to halt the fall in its international reserves, in part due to a scarcity of foreign currency and exchange volatility in the financial sector.

"In a sustained manner,



The new 2,000 pesos banknote. **PHOTO: CENTRAL BANK OF ARGENTINA / AFP**

the state will gain the capacity to act in the financial dollar markets, which will make it possible to avoid disruptive increases," Deputy Economy Minister Gabriel Rubinstein had said previously on Twitter.

He said Argentina was looking to "strengthen the macroeconomic order" with this move.

According to the central bank, Argentina has brute international reserves of just over \$37.5 billion, but the net figure is considerably lower, analysts say. — AFP

Los Angeles school strikers get 30 per cent pay hike

SCHOOL workers who shut down education for around half a million pupils in Los Angeles this week with a three-day strike won a 30 per cent pay hike, their union said Friday.

Bus drivers, cafeteria workers and special education assistants employed by Los Angeles Unified School District — the second biggest in the United States — halted work on Tuesday demanding an end to what they called "poverty wages."

With teachers refusing to cross the picket lines, the county's huge public school system ground to a halt.

After talks between the Service Employees International Union Local 99 and the LAUSD board, a tentative deal



People protest for a third day as members of the Service Employees International Union Local 99 strike in Los Angeles, California on 23 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

was announced Friday effectively meeting the union's demand for a boost in pay by nearly a third.

The union said the wage hike will increase the average salary of members from \$25,000 a year

to \$33,000. The proposed deal — which must be voted on by the membership — also includes a \$1,000 bonus for all members who were with the district in the 2020-21 school year. — AFP

Japan, 8 other economies agree to slash saury fishing quota by 25%

JAPAN, China and the seven other members of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission have agreed to cut their combined saury catch quota by about 25 per cent from last year to 250,000 tons a year to address depleted stocks.

The new catch limit, which was decided at the end of a three-day meeting through Friday in Sapporo, will be in place for two years. While the parties agreed on a 40 per cent cut from the previous year in 2021 and kept the quota at 333,750 tons in 2022, Tokyo had proposed halving it to 170,000 tons amid historically poor catches.

Even after the latest change, the quota still far exceeds the actual amount of saury caught by commission

members Japan, Canada, China, the European Union, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, the United States and Vanuatu.

"This is a fishing quota based on scientific grounds. While this is not enough, we were able to take a step toward reinforcing the resource," said Miwako Takase of Japan's Fisheries Agency in a press conference early Saturday.

Of the combined quota for the nine members for 2021 and 2022, 198,000 tons were allocated for high seas and 135,750 tons for exclusive economic zones of Japan and Russia. Under the new agreement, they were lowered to 150,000 tons, down 24 per cent, and 100,000 tons, down 26 per cent, respectively. — Kyodo



Saury is unloaded at a port in Nemuro, Hokkaido, in November. Japan's saury haul fell 27% in 2020 from the previous year to 29,566 tons, the lowest since comparable data became available. **PHOTO: KYODO**

G-7 to push for tighter cryptocurrency regulations

THE Group of Seven major industrialized democracies will promote tougher regulations of the cryptocurrency sector, aiming to increase business transparency and consumer protections, officials with knowledge of the plan said Sunday.

The G-7 will accelerate the pace of related discussions toward a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers in mid-May, just days before Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

hosts this year's summit in Hiroshima, according to the officials.

Amid lingering concern about potential risks to the global financial system posed by crypto assets, they said Japan and the other members — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States, as well as the European Union — are seeking to state their collective efforts in a leaders' declaration.

The plan follows the collapse of the major cryptocurrency ex-

change FTX in November, which has laid bare the poor governance of the industry and sent shockwaves through financial markets.

It also comes as investors have been rattled by two sudden bank failures this month in the United States. The two were Silicon Valley Bank, which specialized in dealing with technology startups, and Signature Bank, which served crypto clients. — Kyodo

New nuclear power unit starts operation in Guangxi

A new nuclear power unit using Hualong One, a domestically designed third-generation nuclear reactor, was put into operation in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Saturday, paving the way for commercial operation.

With the operation of the No.3 unit of the Fangchenggang nuclear power station in the port city of Fangchenggang, the China General Nuclear Power Corporation currently has 27 nuclear power units in operation, with an installed capacity of more than 30.56 million kW.

The operation of the No.3 unit further verified the safety and maturity of the Hualong One technology, said Mei



Photo taken on 23 May 2018 shows the installation site of a hemispherical dome at the No. 3 unit of Fangchenggang nuclear power station in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. PHOTO: FANGCHENGANG NUCLEAR POWER CO., LTD/XINHUA

Jun, chairman of Guangxi Fangchenggang Nuclear Power Co., Ltd.

The project will significantly promote economic

and social development and green transformation in Guangxi as the region is building a coastal clean power supply base, Mei

said.

The Fangchenggang nuclear power project will have six nuclear power units in total. — Xinhua

Viet Nam takes step towards global minimum tax to boost investment



Rising business confidence propping up production. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA

A global deal to ensure multinational companies pay a minimum tax rate of 15 per cent will force Viet Nam to change the way it attracts foreign investors, local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Wednesday.

Viet Nam has been pursuing a range of fiscal policies for years aimed at luring foreign investments into the economy by offering tax relief and

incentives.

While more than 130 countries, representing about 90 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), backed an agreement since 2021 to prevent global companies from stashing profits with a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent that would apply to companies with annual revenues above 750 million euros.—Xinhua

Coronation souvenirs boost struggling English ceramics industry

WITH an expert flick of a gilt-covered paint brush, a craftswoman puts the finishing touches to commemorative mugs marking the first coronation of a British monarch in 70 years.

Just six weeks before King Charles III is crowned

at Westminster Abbey on 6 May, an historic English pottery is working flat out to meet demand for the fine bone china souvenirs.

"You just feel so proud. There's been nothing like this since the queen's coronation," said Gary Fraser, production manager at

Duchess China 1888 in the central English city of Stoke-on-Trent, home of the country's pottery industry.

Fraser, 57, whose father and grandfather also worked in the potteries, remembers them coming home with commemora-

tive pieces from previous royal occasions such as Queen Elizabeth II's silver jubilee marking her 25th year on the throne in 1977.

"You get a sense of being part of history. People will pass these things on to their grandkids," said Fraser. — AFP

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Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Dated: 27 March 2023

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BF TROUT VOY.NO. (OUV12E1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BF TROUT VOY.NO. (OUV12E1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-3-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: 2301185

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WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Putin says will deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus



A Russian Yars intercontinental ballistic missile launcher parades through Red Square during the general rehearsal of the Victory Day military parade in central Moscow on 7 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said Saturday he would deploy tactical nuclear weapons in neighbour and ally Belarus, bringing the arms to a country at the gates of the European Union.

Putin has previously issued thinly veiled warnings that he could use nuclear weapons in Ukraine if Russia were threatened, reviving Cold War-era fears.

He also said he would deploy depleted uranium ammunition if Kyiv received the controversial weaponry from the West, follow-

ing a British suggestion that it could supply Ukraine.

Putin said the move to deploy tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus was “nothing unusual.”

“The United States has been doing this for decades. They have long placed their tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of their allies,” Putin said.

Putin said he spoke to Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko and said “we agreed to do the same.”

He added that Russia had helped equip Belarusian planes

“without violating our international agreements on nuclear-non-proliferation... 10 planes are ready for this type of weapon to be used.”

Russia has given Belarus an Iskander system that can carry nuclear weapons, Putin also said.

It will start training crews on 3 April and plans to finish the construction of a special storage facility for tactical nuclear weapons by 1 July. Putin also said that Russia would respond if the West supplied Ukraine with depleted uranium ammunition. — Xinhua

UN nuclear chief to travel to embattled Ukraine plant

UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi said Saturday he would travel to Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia plant next week, warning of the “precarious” situation there.

Europe’s largest nuclear power plant, which Russia captured a year ago, has been subject to frequent shelling in the area.

Grossi will be travelling to the plant for the second time since Moscow invaded Ukraine “to assess first-hand the serious nuclear safety and security situation at the

facility,” said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

“Despite our presence at the site for seven months now, the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is still precarious,” Grossi said in a statement.

“The nuclear safety and security dangers are all too obvious, as is the necessity to act now to prevent an accident,” he added.

Grossi has proposed establishing a security zone around the site. — AFP



The IAEA mission will help ensure nuclear safety and security at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and undertake vital safeguards activities. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Ankara stops handling Iraqi Kurdistan oil: Baghdad

TÜRKIYE stopped oil exports from Iraq’s autonomous Kurdistan region on Saturday following arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce, the Iraqi oil ministry said.

“Türkiye has informed the authorities of Iraqi Kurdistan of a stop to imports,” Assem Jihad, spokesman for the ministry, told AFP.

Iraqi officials overseeing exports via Türkiye’s Ceyhan port noted pumping stopped at “12:35 pm (0935 GMT) on 25 March, 2023”, according to a document the authenticity of which the spokesman confirmed.

There has been no confirmation from Turkish authorities.



An Iraqi oil employee checks pipelines at the Bai Hassan oilfield, west of Kirkuk, 19 October 2017. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Baghdad said the arbitration tribunal of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce had accepted Baghdad’s claims in a dispute with Ankara over who had responsibility for

exporting the autonomous region’s oil. Iraq in 2014 launched the proceedings against neighbouring Türkiye, claiming exclusive rights over Kurdistan’s oil exports. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scholz looks to quell coalition divisions

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz will battle on Sunday to put out the fires threatening his government as the three-way coalition meets for crisis talks on a growing series of disputes.

A little more than a year after taking office, the relationship between Scholz’s Social Democrats (SPD) and his governing partners, the Greens and the pro-business FDP, looks more strained than ever.

Earlier this week, Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Robert Habeck of the Greens accused the FDP of blocking progress, while the FDP’s deputy chief Wolfgang Kubicki compared the Green politician to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Kubicki later apologised but the damaging row underlines the state of the three-way coalition — the first in Germany’s post-war history.

The alliance got off to a good start in December 2021 under the motto of their coalition agreement — “Dare for more progress”.

It was put to a tough test when Russia invaded Ukraine just two months on, upending decades of German economic and political certainties.

But tensions have since soared — particularly between the Greens and the FDP. — AFP

‘Great misery’: Kuwait political crisis drags down economy

A seemingly never-ending political crisis is plunging oil-rich Kuwait’s economy into the mire, affecting basic services and causing mounting public concern.

Despite its large oil reserves, hospitals and educational services are in decay as squabbling paralyses the wealthy Gulf region’s only fully elected parliament.

Ahmed al-Sarraf, a businessman and newspaper columnist, says his concerns are growing as the country falters.

“I feel great anxiety for my family, for the future of my grandchildren, for their education, and for my health,” the former banker told AFP.

“This situation is generat-

ing great misery.”

Kuwait, which borders Saudi Arabia and Iraq, is home to seven percent of the world’s crude reserves. It has little debt and one of the strongest sovereign wealth funds worldwide. However, it suffers from constant stand-offs between elected lawmakers and cabinets installed by the ruling Al-Sabah family, which maintains a strong grip over political life, despite a parliamentary system in place since 1962.

The stasis has prevented lawmakers from passing reforms to diversify the economy, while repeated budget deficits and low foreign investment have added to the air of gloom.

— AFP



Friction between the ruling family and elected lawmakers saw the Kuwaiti parliament dissolved yet again last month. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

‘Stuck in a swamp’: Saudi Arabia seeks exit from Yemen war

EIGHT years after launching its military campaign in Yemen, Saudi Arabia wants to extricate itself from the conflict, despite slim hopes of lasting peace, to focus on ambitious projects at home.

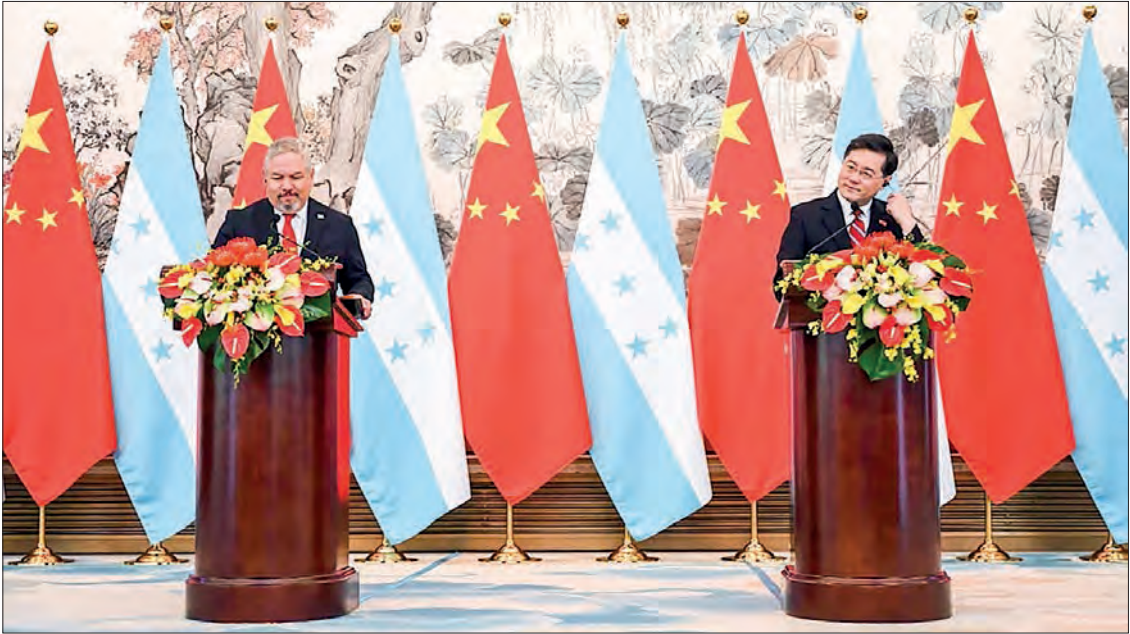
The oil-rich monarchy gave a signal this month by announcing plans to resume ties with Iran, which backs Yemen’s Huthi rebels against the Saudi-supported government in a proxy war.

But as Saudi Arabia instigates sweeping social and economic changes as part of

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s “Vision 2030” reform, it “is seeking to shift its approach in Yemen from a military strategy to a soft security and political one”, said Ahmed Nagi, from the International Crisis Group.

Since the Saudi-led military intervention began on 26 March 2015, the kingdom has pounded its impoverished neighbour with air strikes in a conflict that has triggered one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises, according to the United Nations. — AFP

China, Honduras establish diplomatic relations



Honduras Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina (L) and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang issue a joint statement following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, after a ceremony in the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on 26 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHINA and Honduras signed a joint communique in Beijing on Sunday on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The communique was signed by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Honduran Foreign Minister Eduardo Reina after they held talks.

According to the communique, the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Honduras, in keeping with the

interests and desires of the two peoples, have decided to recognize each other and establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, effective from the date of signature of this communique.

The two governments agree to develop friendly relations between the two countries on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interfer-

ence in each other’s internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence, the communique said.

The Government of the Republic of Honduras recognizes that there is only one China in the world, the Government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China’s territory, the communique added. — Xinhua

Defence minister urges pause to reforms as Israelis protest again

TENS of thousands of Israelis rallied in Tel Aviv Saturday against a controversial judicial overhaul, as Defence Minister Yoav Galant broke ranks to call for a pause to the government reforms.

The latest demonstration to hit Israel’s commercial hub came days after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to press on with the changes despite mounting international alarm. But his defence minister said Saturday that “we must stop the legislative process” for a month in view of the divisiveness of the reforms.

“The growing social rift has made its way into the (army) and security agencies. It is a clear, immediate and tangible threat to Israel’s security,” said Galant, who is a member of Netanyahu’s



The latest mass protest in Israel’s commercial hub Tel Aviv comes days after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to press on with a controversial judicial overhaul despite mounting international alarm. **PHOTO: AFP**

own right-wing Likud party.

“I am committed to Likud values... and placing the State of Israel above all... but major changes on the national level must be made through deliber-

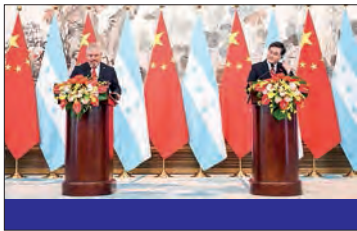
ations and dialogue,” he added.

His comments were welcomed by opposition leader Yair Lapid who hailed a “brave and vital step for Israel’s security”. — AFP

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SPORT



The FIFA-MFF U-15 Youth League is a competition where the dreams of young players across Myanmar are born. PHOTO: MFF

FIFA-MFF U-15 Youth League 2023 to be held in two capital cities

THE Myanmar Football Federation is planning to organize the FIFA-MFF U-15 Youth League 2023 in the first week of May this year in Yangon and Mandalay, divided into two parts, Upper Myanmar Zone and Lower Myanmar Zone.

Teams representing states and regions will participate in the tourney.

If there are more than the

specified number of teams in the regions and states, the qualifiers will have the chance to join the tourney, MFF officials said.

The competition will be held every Saturday and Sunday, they added. The competition will last three months for the first round and three more months for the second round.

The registration period for competing teams is set to 31

March 2023, and registration can be done by contacting the Myanmar Football Federation FIFA-MFF U-15 Youth League Department.

The participating teams will be contributed K1 million each, and the first prize team will be awarded K5 million, the second K3 million and the third K2 million along with trophies and medals. — KZL

Hurkacz beats Kokkinakis in epic, Medvedev cruises through

HUBERT Hurkacz saved five match points as he fought back to beat Thanasi Kokkinakis in a three and a half hour epic while fourth-seed Daniil Medvedev got his Miami Open bid under way with an easy win on Saturday.

Hurkacz was pushed all the way by the Australian lucky loser Kokkinakis before emerging with a 6-7 (10/12), 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (8/6) victory.

The Aussie had shown his mettle by saving six set points as he won the first-set tie-break and Hurkacz, the 2021 Miami champion, saved three match points in the second-set tie-break and another two in the final-set breaker. — AFP



Hubert Hurkacz saved five match points to beat Thanasi Kokkinakis of Australia at the Miami Open in the longest best-of-three match of the year. PHOTO: AFP

Morocco stun Brazil for first time in friendly international

MOROCCO stunned Brazil 2-1 in a friendly international on Saturday as the north African side recorded a first ever win over the five-time world champions.

Midfielder Sofiane Boufal, a former Southampton star, but now playing with Al Rayyan in Qatar, gave Morocco the lead after 29 minutes, scoring with a powerful turn and drive from a pass by Bilal El Khannous.

Brazil skipper Casemiro levelled in the 67th minute when his weak shot was fumbled by goalkeeper Yassine Bounou.

But on-loan Sampdoria midfielder Abdelhamid Sabiri struck the winner with a

volley in the 79th minute as Morocco showed that becoming the first Arab or African nation to reach the World Cup semi-finals last year was no fluke.

“I wouldn’t say we lacked understanding, it’s about putting into practice the ideas of a new coach,” said Manchester United’s Casemiro.

“I think we played a good game and did everything as far as possible to win.”

Only 10 of the 23-man squad that took Brazil to a disappointing quarter-final exit at the World Cup made the trip to Morocco for the game. — AFP



Morocco’s midfielder Hakim Ziyech (L) is marked by Brazil’s defender Alex Telles (C) during a friendly football match between Morocco and Brazil at the Ibn Batouta Stadium in Tangier on 26 March 2023. PHOTO: FADEL SENNA / AFP

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council:
Twelve Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To prioritize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy.
- (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country’s prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.